

House staff, Mr. Hood served at the Pentagon as the Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Legislative Affairs where he was responsible for promoting the policies, strategies, and budget of the Department of Defense to the United States Congress. Mr. Hood also served as the Deputy Under Secretary of Defense (Comptroller) for Budget and Appropriations Affairs, working closely with the Appropriations Committees of the Congress.

For the past three years as the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Legislative Affairs, Mr. Hood deftly managed and guided the Department's congressional relations, ensuring the preparation of key senior leaders for Senate confirmations, Congressional hearings and briefings, while simultaneously developing and leading a highly skilled and focused legislative affairs team. His leadership, knowledge, and personal efforts greatly contributed to one of the most successful legislative years in DoD history, culminating with the establishment of the U.S. Space Force, signed into law on December 20, 2019 as part of the FY 2020 NDAA.

Mr. Hood provided significant contributions and leadership during the development and execution of the Secretary of Defense (SD)'s Congressional Engagement Strategy, ensuring an integrated legislative program directly aligned with the National Defense Strategy. This comprehensive plan supported the department's priorities, aligned tangible legislative objectives to the congressional calendar, and guided the execution of over 4,000 congressional engagements within the Office of the Secretary of Defense, and oversight and alignment of over 10,000 congressional engagements across the Department during his three-year tenure. The strategic execution of these engagements directly led to the attainment of DoD legislative priorities in the Fiscal Years 2018, 2019, 2020 and 2021 National Defense Authorization and Appropriations Acts (NDAAs).

On behalf of the House, we thank Robert R. Hood, his wife Jennifer, and children Evan, Caroline, Megan, Emma for their contributions and dedication to this great Nation. We join our colleagues in wishing him future success as he leaves the Department of Defense.

RECOGNIZING THE RECIPIENTS OF THE 2020 CONGRESSIONAL MEDAL OF MERIT

HON. BILL POSEY

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 29, 2020

Mr. POSEY. Madam Speaker, I would like to take this time to congratulate this year's recipients of the Congressional Medal of Merit, which I am proud to present to 23 outstanding high school seniors of Florida's 8th District for their leadership and dedication, inside and outside of the classroom.

Each year, the most distinguished high school seniors are nominated by their schools to receive this honor in recognition of their outstanding academic achievement, commitment to the betterment of their communities, civic works, and leadership in the classroom. This year's recipients are no exception and I am glad that their hard work and dedication can be celebrated and recognized in this way.

This year's recipients for Brevard County are Jenna Reed, Astronaut High School, Donald Burkhardt, Bayside High School, Amber Moore, Cocoa High School, Trevor Evetts, Cocoa Beach Jr/Sr High School, Thomas Foland, Eau Gallie High School, Haleigh Woloszak, Edgewood Jr/Sr High School, Michaela Chua, Heritage High School, Heather Motro, Holy Trinity Episcopal Academy, Edward Brunger, Melbourne Central Catholic School, Carmel Alshaibi, Melbourne High School, Olivia Mehalic, Merritt Island High School, Kristi Howell, Odyssey Charter Jr/Sr High School, Anthony Cardoza, Palm Bay Magnet High School, Corey Pecot, Rockledge High School, Nathaniel Basford, Satellite High School, Danielle Marie, Space Coast Jr/Sr High School, Elijah Viera, Titusville High School, Gavin Keith, Viera High School, and Alyssa Holmquist, West Shore Jr/Sr High School.

From Indian River County, I am proud to honor Hailey Pedreira, Indian River Charter High School, Kylei Oakes, Saint Edward's School, Christopher Cordner, Sebastian River High School, and Benny Rackard from Vero Beach High School.

This year has presented many challenges for students, most of who were unexpectedly forced to transition to online learning and unfortunately didn't get to experience in person graduation ceremonies. I am proud that these distinguished individuals braved through and continued to promote and practice excellence during this trying time.

Let me say to these fine students that while we are unable to congratulate you this year with an in-person ceremony, please know how proud I am of each of your accomplishments and it is an honor to bestow the Congressional Medal of Merit to you this year. I know that you will take what you have learned and go on to serve our community in myriad ways. I look forward to seeing what you will achieve in the future.

I ask my colleagues to join me in applauding these outstanding students for their dedication to excellence.

REMEMBERING JOHN CAMPBELL

HON. DEBBIE LESKO

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 29, 2020

Mrs. LESKO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life of John Campbell from Goodyear, Arizona.

John married his wife, Wally, on June 17, 1967, and they spent 53 wonderful years together. He was a loving father to Suzanne Winger, Steve Brown, Stuart Brown, and John Campbell II, a grandfather to seven, and a great-grandfather to seven.

John proudly served our great nation in the United States Air Force for twenty-four years. He retired as an accomplished aviator, earning the rank of Lieutenant Colonel.

During his time in service, John acquired a long list of achievements and awards including spending over 6,000 hours flying the Air Force KC-135 as a Master Navigator, the meritorious service medal with one leaf cluster, the Air Medal with four leaf clusters, and the Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal.

After retirement, he continued to serve his community as a deputy registrar of contractors

for the California Contractors State Licensing Board. He also served as a member of Ben Ali Shrine, the Union Kit Carson Lodge No. 58, the National Sojourners, and New Hope OES. He was a proud life member of both the American Legion AWO and the Military Officers Association of America.

On this day, we as a community would like to thank Mr. Campbell for his service to his country, and pray for his family and loved ones during this time of mourning.

REMEMBERING THE LIFE OF SILVESTRE DURAN

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 29, 2020

Ms. KAPTUR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to remember the life of Silvestre Duran, an outstanding member of our Toledo community.

Silvestre worked at the Jeep plant before settling into a long career at the Catholic Diocese of Toledo as its Hispanic Outreach Coordinator. He was one of Ohio's pioneers of Tejano music, hosting his own Saturday radio program, Radio Fiesta, from 1955 to 2008. He saw it as an opportunity to bring joy into the lives of many migrant families who were working the fields and those, like his family, that had settled in the area.

During these busy years, Silvestre also owned and operated a Mexican restaurant in South Toledo called Don Ysidro's. Many churchgoers and late-night revelers would go to Don Ysidro's for all the Mexican favorites. He engaged his entire family in working at the restaurant.

Silvestre was an advocate for the Latino community in the Toledo area during its formative years. He served on countless committees, boards and organizations advocating on behalf of Latino community. He received numerous awards and accolades for his hard work. He taught GED classes early on and worked to get people from the community hired into good paying jobs at the Jeep plant.

He was a founder and served as board President for La Raza Unida de Ohio, and founder and commissioner for the Ohio Commission on Hispanic/Latino Affairs. Silvestre was a lifetime member of the Farm Labor Organizing Committee (FLOC) of the AFL-CIO, attending rallies and demonstrations in support of Baldemar Velasquez. Last year, prior to his 90th birthday, he traveled with FLOC to North Carolina to protest the treatment of migrant farmworkers in the tobacco fields.

Silvestre dedicated his last decades of life to music and singing. He could be seen at many Latino social events singing and playing his guitar with the trio Los Distinguidos alongside Francisco Ibarra and Jesse Ponce. His musical influence was passed on to his grandchildren Steve Longoria; Silvestre Roberto and Jose Duran; and Ricky May who all sing and play the guitar and piano.

Silvestre also enjoyed traveling with his family, whether it was visiting Texas or traveling to Spain and Mexico. You could find him at SS Peter & Paul Church attending Sunday Mass every week. He was a man of integrity, inspiration, and kindness.

Whether serving his community, entertaining a crowd, or bringing joy to countless people,